

THEIR HISTORY AND CULTURE

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supreme—including the more than two decades since the downfall of the Ch'ing.

In recreation the Occident—especially the Anglo-Saxon portion of it—has stressed athletics and China has not. Western forms of amusement in which both sexes participate, especially dancing, are quite alien to the Chinese tradition and to old-fashioned Chinese even seem immoral. Such recent Occidental inventions as the "movie" and the "talkie" are also a marked innovation.

This Western social life, so different from that of the Middle Kingdom of the nineteenth century, has been pouring into China through many channels. For more than a century, as we have seen, foreign merchants, consuls, diplomats, and members of the customs service have been living in the great ports and in some of the smaller ones and have been travelling through the interior. Christian missionaries have been widely scattered, not only in the cities but in the towns, and in the interior as well as on the coast and the main rivers. Chinese students have been going abroad by the thousands and a large proportion of them have seen Occidental life, not in smaller university centers, where the changes affecting the West are not so obvious, but in such cities as New York, Paris, Berlin, and London, where all the new forces affecting the Occident are the most powerful. It is this ultra-modern Western life which they tend to reproduce when once more in China. Chinese emigrants to America and to the lands to the south of China have been returning with new ideas. Their influence is felt most markedly on the south coast. The "movies" and especially those of American origin, with their

bizarre exaggeration of certain phases of Western life—usually the less desirable—have been immensely popular and have been an agency for the spread of Western ideals and institutions in badly distorted forms. Translations of foreign literature of many types have been issued in quantities. Some of the large cities are centers from which the new forces stream out into the surrounding country. This is particularly true of the commercial and financial metropolis, Shanghai—that hybrid of the West and China, with the Occidental elements obvious and dominant. The result of these varied influences from the West is that China has been brought in touch with many different types of Occidental life, including, and often especially, those in which the recent changes are most apparent.